

Middleton Cheney Rural District Council

Annual Report for 1925

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By the Medical Officer of Health for the Middleton Cheney Rural District.

The Report for the past year should be a Survey Report for the preceding five years in addition to the work performed during the past year, but with the exception of housing, practically no changes in administration or organization have taken place, owing to the natural and stationary conditions of the area and the smallness of it. The whole district only occupies an area of 13,421 acres, with an estimated population of 2419. The census of 1921, is 2513. The district is one entirely devoted to agriculture, without any manufactories or other industries. The number of inhabited houses (1921) is 640, and the number of families or separate occupiers (1921) is 640.

The Rateable Value is £24,125, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £54. The amount of poor-law relief is very small and gratuitous medical relief or hospital treatment is seldom required, but the latter is always available. There have been no noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity, or any conditions of occupation or environment prejudicial to health in the district during the past five years.

During the past year there have been 39 births, legitimate males 17, legitimate females 19, illegitimate males 1, illegitimate females 2. Birth rate 16.12.

The mortality during the past year is as follows :—

Deaths all ages, 26 ; males 14, females 12 ; Death rate 10.70. Death of infants under one year, 2 legitimate females. Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth, nil. No deaths were caused by whooping cough or diarrhoea. One death was attributable to measles. The mortality for the year is low and below the average.

The absence of epidemic infectious disease in the district is very satisfactory. Only one case has been notified, one of of erysipelas at Middleton Cheney, during the past year.

There are no hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council, neither is there any institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area.

Ambulance facilities are available from outside the area, but not within.

There are no clinics or treatment centres in the area and the Rural District Council does not employ any Health Officers other than the M.O.H. and the Sanitary Inspector.

No arrangements are made by the Council for professional nursing in the homes, either for general or infectious diseases, but support is given to the various District Nursing Associations in the area.

Three registered mid-wives practice in the district.

There is no legislation in force in the district relating to Public Health and the Local Authority does not co-operate with the Medical Services of National Health Insurance or with the voluntary and Poor Law Hospitals outside the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The Water Supply of the area is derived almost entirely from wells. There is a public supply at Lower Boddington which is satisfactory. This is the only public supply in the district, but a new water scheme has been approved at Overthorpe and is now awaiting further development.

The pollution of the River Cherwell is still a matter of consideration and debate.

The various small sewage disposal works in the area have been working satisfactorily. The plans and estimates for New Sewage Disposal Schemes for Middleton Cheney have been approved by the Council and are now awaiting the Ministry of Health's approval. Schemes for Aston-le-Walls and Chacombe are now being prepared.

This being a purely agricultural district the closet accommodation with the exception of private houses which have their own Sanitary arrangements is entirely a privy one of the old-fashioned type, the contents when emptied being placed on the land or gardens, no arrangements being made by the Council as regards scavenging.

The Sanitary Officer of the area has received—11 written, and 23 verbal complaints of nuisances. All of these have been dealt with : 11 statutory notices having to be served after informal notices. It has not been found necessary to apply to the Justices for any further order.

There are no public lodging houses, offensive trades or smoke nuisances in the area.

The Sanitary Condition and Water Supply of the Village Schools are satisfactory. No school has had to be closed during the past year on account of epidemic disease.

The question of housing opens up a great question ; generally speaking the supply equals the demand, although the Council Houses are continually occupied, usually however by people who are employed outside the area, and not engaged in agricultural labour

The ordinary pre-war cottage is antiquated, in a poor state of repair and deficient in accommodation and air space, which however does not appear to materially affect the occupants health. The above conditions are doubtless due to lack of proper management and supervision by the owners primarily, and secondarily to the occupants, but any comment upon this position is in my opinion outside my department, as it is purely a financial one between landlord and tenant. Over-crowding is not prevalent in the district and no action has had to be taken concerning this.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1925

Number of new houses erected during the year.

- (a) Total, including number given separately under B 2.
- B. With State assistance under the Housing acts, 2.

(I) By the Local Authority, nil.

(II) By other bodies or persons, nil.

1 Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health Housing Acts), 197

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 153

(3) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 9

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 23

2 Remedy of defects without service of formal notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, 32

3 Under Statutory powers.

(a) Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served, requiring repairs, 32

(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices

(a) By Owners, 26

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners, 0

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close, 0

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served, requiring defects to be remedied, 32.

(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

(a) By owners, 26.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, 0

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders, nil

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which closing orders were made, nil

(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the Dwelling Houses having been made fit, nil

(4) Number of Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made, nil

(5) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished an pursuance of demolition orders, nil

MILK SUPPLY.

A considerable amount of milk is produced in the area and relatively speaking only a small amount produced is consumed by the inhabitants. Practically all is sold to purchasers outside the area for consumption in the towns, none being retained except for household consumption and making butter. My attention has not been called to any tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle. The Cowsheds and Dairies have been systematically inspected

As regards meat. The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 does not apply to this area. There are no Public Slaughter Houses.

Private Slaughter Houses in the Area.

	1920	January 1925	December 1925
Registered	4	4	4
Licensed	nil	nil	nil

All the Bakehouses, five in number, in the area have been inspected and are fairly satisfactory

As regards prevalence and control over Infectious Diseases during the past five years, this has caused no anxiety. There has been no epidemic apart from influenza, and the notification of infectious diseases to me have not averaged more than three a year over that period. The District Council arrange for the payment for the examination of the bacteriological specimens. There is no Isolation Hospital in the area.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR 1925

1. Eresipelas, Middleton Cheney, treated at home, cured. No other infectious diseases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases. Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.	
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
0						
1	Nil	...	Nil	...
5	"	...	"	...
10	"	...	"	...
15	"	...	"	...
20	"	...	"	...
25	"	...	"	...
35	"	...	"	...
45	"	...	"	...
55	"	...	"	...
65	"	...	"	...
Total	Nil	...	Nil	...

PUBLIC HEALTH PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action taken

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62

No action taken

TUBERCULOSIS SCHEME.

The Council have no scheme re above.

Any case of Tuberculosis reported to the Medical Officer of Health is immediately reported to the County Medical Officer of Health. The case then becomes under the supervision of the County Council Tuberculosis Officer.

As regards venereal diseases, maternity, and child welfare, these do not apply to this district.

Signed,

J. S. Johnson,

Medical Officer of Health, Middleton Cheney Rural District.

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